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REVISED BY THE MEMBERS

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HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES FUND.

NEED OF MORE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The total subscriptions received since this fund was opened one year ago amount to \$238,639.44, including the net amount collected on "Our Day" \$39,751.07.

In May last year a sum of \$5,000 was remitted to London for the Royal Flying Corps Hospital, but \$2,950 of this \$5,000 not immediately required for the Hospital has been utilized for other purposes. Various sums have been allocated and remitted since the above, and the amount remaining in the General Fund here is now \$13,481.32.

All allocations and all earmarked subscriptions have been remitted to the proper quarter, and, without giving the full details which would require an elaborate statement, the sums remitted to the various funds and organizations at home are as undernoted:—

	\$	s.	d.
Royal Flying Corps Hospital	2,750	—	—
Officers Families Fund	2,250	10	3
Red Cross	1,300	3	11
Red Cross (Our Day)	5,000	—	—
Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund	164	19	4
Star and Garter Building Fund	3,287	19	5
Prisoners of War Funds	1,588	19	1
Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund (including \$1,152.05 per Hongkong Daily Press)	604	9	7
Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund (Subscription per Hongkong Daily Press)	300	—	—
St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blind Soldiers and Sailors	1,821	7	2
Dreadnought Hospital	500	—	—
Relief in Belgium	573	4	6
Soldiers and Sailors' Families Association	16	9	11
Catholic Women's League	1	1	10
Hut Fund	20	—	—
Newspapers for the Fleet	7	13	5
Lady Roberts' Field Glass	20	—	—
Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation	300	—	—
Blue Cross Fund	12	3	6
Invalid Children's Aid Association	5	—	—
Royal Soldiers' Daughters Home	20	—	—
Karl of Lonsdale Charing Cross Hospital	5	—	—
Lady Lugard Hospital	10	—	—
British and Foreign Sailors' Society	50	—	—
Soldiers' Club Association	25	—	—

To various charities which may be in urgent need of funds (to be apportioned by the London Committee) 1,000 —

In addition to the above, the Hongkong Association of Women War Workers has been supplied with over \$32,000 worth of materials to enable them to carry out the good work they are doing in making bandages, garments for men in hospitals, and other hospital necessities.

The balance of some \$13,000 will go only very little way towards meeting the calls on the Fund, and the Committee must renew their appeal to the Community.

As pointed out in H.E. the Governor's speech at the last General Committee meeting, it is hoped that the monthly subscriptions will increase. These are the most useful form of subscription, enabling an estimate to be made of the amounts which will be received and thus giving the Committee a steady working basis.

Subscription lists may be obtained on application from Mr. N. J. Stubbins, Hon. Treasurer, care of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

MARITIME CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The Maritime Customs Revenue for 1916 shows an increase of over Haikwan Tls. 1,000,000, the total collection reported being in round numbers Haikwan Tls. 37,750,000 (at average exchange: 3s/3 13/16—\$28,232,174) as compared with Haikwan Tls. 33,747,000 (at average exchange 2s/7 1/3—\$24,703,026) in 1915.

The following are in round numbers the collections at the principal ports:—
Hankow Hk. Tls. 934,000 a decrease of Hk. Tls. 188,000.
Amoy Hk. Tls. 744,000 an increase of Hk. Tls. 120,000.
Dairen Hk. Tls. 2,021,000 an increase of Hk. Tls. 291,000.
Tientsin and Chingwangtao Hk. Tls. 4,690,000 a decrease of Hk. Tls. 40,000.
Kiaochoo Hk. Tls. 1,638,000 an increase of Hk. Tls. 1,225,000.
Hankow Hk. Tls. 4,011,000 an increase of Hk. Tls. 143,000.
Shanghai Hk. Tls. 11,324,000 a decrease of Hk. Tls. 86,000.
Swatow Hk. Tls. 1,124,000 a decrease of Hk. Tls. 171,000.
Canton Hk. Tls. 2,222,000 a decrease of Hk. Tls. 176,000.

The collections at the following ports form records:—Amoy, Dairen, Changsha (Hk. Tls. 624,000), Hankow, Nanking (Hk. Tls. 383,000) and Nanning (Hk. Tls. 163,000).

All foreign obligations secured on the Customs revenues have been fully met to 31st December, 1916.

King Constantine's brother, Prince George, has been making a royal progress on his tour through Germany and has been received with royal honours at the Courts of Bavaria, Saxony, and Wurtemberg. He was to visit the Emperor at headquarters. Everywhere he has been welcomed as the brother of Germany's most faithful ally.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

SHIPOWNERS' ENORMOUS GAINS.

NEED FOR PROVIDING FOR NEW TONNAGE.

Never before has our shipping industry made such profits as since the outbreak of war. Struggling companies with an unsuccessful past and none too cheerful prospects have been quite set on their feet, while the prosperous concerns have realised profits such as they never hoped to earn even in "boom" times.

It is, of course, the shortage of tonnage that has been the great factor. Apart from our war losses, the Government has had to commandeer vessels freely for transports, hospital ships, etc., to say nothing of the tonnage required for carrying goods for ourselves and our Allies. Possibly from 50 to 60 per cent. of our mercantile marine has been requisitioned.

Moreover, foreign tonnage available for the world's needs has also been much reduced, with the German mercantile marine off the seas and a good proportion of our Allies' vessels requisitioned for the purposes of their respective Governments. High freight rates were bound to be the outcome, but few could have contemplated a rise of from 800 to 1,000 per cent., such as actually occurred. The Government were pressed to fix quotations, but found themselves confronted by an awkward problem.

Arbitrarily to fix freight rates in connection with ships using our ports would have been to drive away from our profitable routes the bulk of the 750,000 to 800,000 tons of foreign shipping entering our ports monthly, which would have been suicidal. The Government did the next best thing. They commandeered more tonnage at Blue-book rates and regulated the sailing routes of the British cargo vessels not requisitioned, with the object of seeing that they were utilised first and foremost to the best advantage of the Empire rather than to increase unduly the profits of owners.

Although less than half our mercantile marine has been able to take advantage of the abnormally high freights, profits have risen by leaps and bounds. Sixty per cent. of the excess over the pre-war standard, of course, goes to the Government, and larger amounts have had to be set aside for income tax, and so on. But even then the figures are remarkable. The following table embraces results published by well-known undertakings during the past few months. Many of the companies, it will be seen, strike their profits for the second war period after making full allowance for all taxation liabilities:—

	1914-15	1914-15	Pre-War Standard
Anchor Line	422,000	427,000	42,000
British S.S.	242,100	75,700	126,000
Century Shipping	224,400	123,900	77,200
Eastern Transport	319,500	188,000	102,300
Fagrore Steam	271,100	57,100	109,300
Farmer, Wilby	1,284,800	574,700	724,500
Hain S.S.	608,800	319,700	247,300
Harroving S.S.	146,300	46,300	31,400
Hutchinson	121,800	78,200	111,200
W. & C. T. Jones	111,500	50,400	58,500
London and Northants	65,200	20,100	17,400
North China Steam	105,200	121,800	61,200
Orders & Harland S.S.	71,200	72,500	30,500
Price Line	48,500	74,600	36,300
Prinsep S.S.	34,300	20,500	10,000
Sutherland S.S.	99,000	46,900	22,300
Tonghai Shipping	115,200	10,500	6,900
Sunderland S.S.	152,300	20,000	22,300
Three Smalls S.S.	65,300	42,400	16,900
West Hartlepool S.S.	115,200	12,800	12,800
Western S.S.	65,100	29,000	15,300

After allowing for excess profits tax.

When it is remembered that the pre-war period covered a time of exceptionally active trade and great shipping prosperity, the war profit figures are even startling. What are the companies doing with their profits? Until a few years ago shipowners were very improvident in times of success. Profits were divided up to the hilt, and very little was set aside for the inevitable day of depression. When that day came the shareholders were the sufferers.

But the "boom" of 1912-13 saw the lesson at last learnt, and there was little dividing up to the hilt. The consequence was that when the war broke out the companies were well-equipped for whatever such a cataclysm might bring. After two or three months of trade paralysis it brought prosperity, not adversity.

But unprecedented prosperity has meant also greater responsibilities. Ships now cost four and five times as much to build as they did before the war, and new tonnage is vital to the supremacy of our mercantile marine. Vessels having been hard driven, heavier depreciation allowances are a necessity. Provision is needed for alterations and renewals when vessels are handed back by the Government. It was on account of these responsibilities on the part of shipowners that we advocated months ago that dividends should be restricted at least to the 1912-13 level.

The dividends in the case of most of the companies in the above list have been doubled and in some cases trebled as compared with the results in 1913.

These companies have also largely increased their appropriations in various directions. But we see little evidence of funds specially set aside for the construction of new tonnage. We have repeatedly drawn attention to the enormous profits made by neutral companies hampered only to a very small extent as they are by war taxation. The funds that are being piled up by these neutrals constitute a direct and serious menace to our mercantile supremacy.

Provision for new vessels is, therefore, an urgent question from the national point of view. And it is not for the shipowner to shirk his responsibility in the matter. Had the war not broken out the period 1914-16 would have been a period of trade depression and comparatively poor shipping profits. Everything pointed to such a state of things. The war brought abnormal conditions and unprecedented prosperity, only possible by reason of the supremacy of the British Navy. If, therefore, shipowners fail to do their duty in regard to this new

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SHANGHAI WOMEN AND THE WAR.

Mr. C. W. Wrightson, in a letter to the N.C. Daily News, says: "There are in Shanghai many capable and energetic British women and girls who are only too anxious to perform their part and participate in real hard work, thereby releasing men for military service, and I think no time should be lost in establishing a Bureau in connection with the British Chamber of Commerce where applications would be received and a register kept so that heads of firms could be made acquainted with the names of those willing to work and their qualifications for the post. I may mention this system is being carried out at home and there is no reason why Shanghai should not follow suit."

Commenting upon this suggestion the N.C. Daily News says: "Mr. Wrightson, like ourselves, is convinced that there are in Shanghai many capable and energetic British women and girls who are anxious to perform their part and participate in real hard work. In saying this, we are sure, our correspondent has no intention whatever of disparaging the war work which has been, and is being, done by such organizations as the British Women's Work Association and other equally useful and energetic bodies. What he feels, and what we feel, is that with the prospect of a further call for men, and the consequent depletion of office staffs, something might be done at an early date to organize women for commercial purposes. He suggests, accordingly, the establishment, in connection with the British Chamber of Commerce, of a bureau where applications for employment could be received and to which business men could turn when anxious to fill vacancies in their offices due to the war. The suggestion is an excellent one and we trust meet with approval. The British Chamber of Commerce is an exceedingly busy institution, and before it undertook such additional labour as this scheme would unquestionably involve, it would, we imagine, desire to be satisfied (a) that the work would be of real value to the members of the Chamber, (b) that it was bona-fide war work and not the inauguration of a labour exchange for unemployment in general. The latter notion forms no part of Mr. Wrightson's idea, nor, in supporting his proposal, of ours. We, too, should wish to see the scheme strictly limited by the conditions just named, and in recommending it to the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce we do so on the one hand fully conscious of the heaviness of the burden involved, on the other convinced that no other institution could provide such excellent guarantees of privacy, efficiency and good faith."

CABLE RATES BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Ministry of Communications, announcing the reduction of cable rates between Japan and China on and after January 1st, 1917, as the result of a re-arrangement with the telegraph companies concerned. According to the revised rates a reduction of about 20 per cent. is to be effected on the existing rates. Thus a message from Peking to Shanghai, Amoy, or Foochow will in future cost 30 cts. per word, while the cost of a telegram to the interior of China will be 60 cts. per word. As regards messages to and from Shanghai, the reduced rate will be applicable only in respect of Japanese telegrams.

tonnage question, the Government should take drastic steps. We cannot afford to take risks.

It should be remembered that public companies represent only about 40 per cent. of the British mercantile marine. What are the private or semi-private shipowners doing? Their profits have been equally prodigious. One private shipowner is said to have made over a million and a half sterling since the war broke out. He and many others like him doing their part to repair the wreckage of war and make our commercial position secure?

There is another development in connection with our shipping industry which should be mentioned. It is the tendency towards combines. Amalgamation schemes, galore have been carried through in recent months. The biggest deal in the history of shipping was consummated a few weeks ago by Sir John Ellerman, who absorbed the Wilson Line. It is said between four and five millions sterling for his latest acquisition. Sir John now owns or controls vessels built and building which represent 1,400,000 tons dead-weight, equal, as a shipping paper points out, to nearly one-eighth of the liner tonnage of over 1,000 tons.

DANGER OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

Now many of these combines—we are not speaking of this particular one—are the result of a timorous point of view on the part of boards of directors who fear to enter on a comprehensive construction policy lest a period of depression should follow the war, and partly of anxiety on the part of shipowners to seize a golden opportunity to dispose of their vessels at prices they will never in all human probability see again. But these deals do not affect favourably the question of new tonnage. The ships merely change hands.

We candidly confess we do not like this development, though the shipping journals welcome what they call "the organised consolidation on which the future of our mercantile marine depends." The future of our mercantile marine depends on nothing of the sort, and particularly will the movement be harmful if the shipping industry largely falls into the hands of a few wealthy capitalists. We are aware that shipping combines formed in the past to control certain routes have been miserable failures. It is far more difficult to create anything in the nature of a monopoly on sea than it is on land. Nevertheless, this combine tendency in the shipping trade will need to be carefully watched.—London Exchange.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

MUSKETRY COURSE, PART I.

NO. 3 AND 4 COMPANIES.
All Recruits and all members who did not fire (or failed to pass) Part II. of the 1916 Course are provisionally warned to attend the Range on Sunday next, Jan. 28th. They will leave as follows:—

No. 3 Company, leave Blake Pier at 9 a.m. sharp, returning from Stonecutters at about 1.45 p.m.
No. 4 Company, leave Blake Pier at 1.45 p.m. sharp.

Those in possession of new Winchester Carbines will take them on to the Range. All others will have Rifles issued to them on the Range. Uniform with helmets to be worn. Inspectors, Sergeants, etc., will attend with their respective Companies. POLICE SCHOOL.

Friday, Jan. 26th.—Class I. (Inspector Gerrard) and Class III. (Inspector Gerrard). PARADES.

Friday, Jan. 26th.—All Recruits of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 Companies under the Sergeant-Major.

Monday, Jan. 29th.—No. 2 Company, Maxim Gunners, All Recruits.
Tuesday, Jan. 30th.—Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, Ambulance Platoon, and Buglers and Drummers.

Wednesday, Jan. 31st.—All Recruits.
Friday, Feb. 2nd.—No. 1 Company.
The above Company Parades will be taken by the D.S.P. (R.). BAND PRACTICE.

Tuesday, Jan. 30th.—6 p.m. STRENGTH.
Trooper 788 Maher is transferred to No. 2 Company as from this date. Mounted Equipment to be returned to E.O.

Bugler 29 Chan Chiu Yan is permitted to resign on leaving the Colony. REPORT SHEETS.

Report Sheets issued by the Discipline Department to Inspectors, and others for enquiry into defaulters are to be retained by such Inspectors, etc., until the conclusion of any enquiry made by them. They are not to be sent to the alleged defaulters. (Sd.) F. O. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.).

Hongkong, January 26th, 1917.

NO. 1 HONGKONG V.A.D.

COMMANDANT—LADY MAY.

ASSISTANT COMMANDANT—MRS. CHURCHILL.
1.—Members are reminded that the next Meeting of the Military Hospital will take place to-day (Friday), at 10.15 a.m.

2.—Section Meetings will not be held in February. The Monthly meeting at the Military Hospital will take place on Friday, February 23rd, at 10.30 a.m., when a lecture will take the place of the usual Competition.

3.—The following members have passed a recent examination in "First Aid":—

1st Certificate—Mrs. Bowley and Mrs. Couland.
Medallion—Miss Judah, Mrs. Mansfield, Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Miss Worters.

Bar to Medallion—Mrs. Gegg and Mrs. Goldsmith.
Mrs. Hickling, L.R.C.P. and S., acted as Honorary Lecturer, and Dr. Koch as Honorary Examiner.

4.—It is placed on record that the following members were on duty at the Field Hospital on Dome Hill from Jan. 4th to Jan. 12th, 1917:—

For one day—Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Arthur, Miss L. Ellis, Miss G. Ellis, Mrs. Fleming, Miss A. Gordo, Mrs. Goldsmith, Mrs. Grant, Miss Judah, Mrs. Keigwin, Mrs. Ralphs, Miss Wilkinson.

For two days—Mrs. Sheaton.
For three days—Mrs. Gegg.

The following communication has been received from Captain Churchill, Adjutant, H.K.V.C., and is published for information:—

Hongkong, Jan. 17th, 1917.
V.A.D. Hongkong, Adjutant.

I am directed by Lt.-Col. Chapman, V.D., Commandant H.K.V.C., to convey to you an expression of his thanks for and appreciation of the excellent work done by the Nursing Sisters of your unit who were on duty in the Field Hospital at the Camp recently held on Dome Hill.

(Sd.) A. O. CHURCHILL, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

5.—It is notified for information that Lectures in Home Nursing are held every Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Helena May Institute. Mrs. Hickling, L.R.C.P. and S., has kindly consented to act as Hon. Lecturer. The following Medallion-holders are entitled to enter for the Home Nursing Examination to qualify for the Nursing Pendant:—Mrs. Danby, Mrs. Gegg, Mrs. Goldsmith, Miss Judah, Miss Lammet, Miss L. Loureiro, Miss M. Loureiro, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Worters.

Adjutant and Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, January 26th, 1917.

TRENCH FAT.

To all of us who realise vividly the hardships to which our men are exposed in the trenches it is pleasant to hear (Sir W. Robertson Nicoll writes) that one of the discoveries of the war is the efficacy of trench grease. It appears that when the feet and legs are well rubbed with the grease that is liberally supplied to our men, the cold and damp are robbed of a great deal of their terror. A young soldier who has had fifteen months in the trenches, and is at the present moment on his way back to the front, tells that on one occasion, on his way to his trench near Festubert, he got bogged in the swamp, and had to be pulled out by four of his comrades who succeeded in extracting him, but at the expense of leaving his "rubbers" in the mud. As a result, he had to put in four days in the wet trenches in his stockings. Thanks, however, to trench grease, he was able to keep himself tolerably warm, and in any case suffered no evil effects from the exposure.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

CHARGE OF CRUELTY.

Mr. Gardiner, solicitor, appeared before Mr. Wood on behalf of a Chinese woman charged with assaulting her foster-daughter by tying her up and failing to give her sufficient food. The woman should have appeared under remand on Monday, and Mr. Gardiner explained that she had gone to Canton in search of her husband to come to Court with her. She had not, however, found him.

Mr. Wood said the excuse for not appearing in compliance with the order of the Court was not satisfactory, and he ordered the bail of \$100 to be forfeited.

With regard to the charge, Mr. Gardiner said the complainant was of weak mind and had to be restrained in order to prevent her doing injury to herself and others.

The case was remanded till Thursday, bail being fixed at \$25.

DANGEROUS "SOAP."

A Chinese was fined \$100 for illegal possession of 110 rounds of revolver ammunition on board the s.s. *China*. The ammunition was found among his luggage, packed in card-board boxes, which had on them wrappers bearing the name of a well-known soap. Mr. Melbourne imposed a penalty of \$75, and ordered the confiscation of the ammunition.

Another passenger was discovered to have several packages of "soap" in his baggage. On being opened, the packages were found to contain 100 rounds of Winchester rifle ammunition. Defendant's story was that he was taking the ammunition to Hongkong on behalf of a tradesman, and he stated that the absence of a rifle in his luggage was proof that it was not meant for use by him. Mr. Wood fined him \$100 and confiscated the ammunition.

A Chinese charged with having 35 rounds of revolver ammunition in his possession on board the *China* told Mr. Melbourne that he found it on the deck and thought it was soap, because of the soap wrapper round it. A fine of \$42.50, or, in default, six weeks' hard labour, was imposed by Mr. Melbourne.

WHAT IS BRIBERY?

Mr. Grist, solicitor, raised this question yesterday in defending a Chinese Revenue Officer, who was charged before Mr. Wood with accepting a bribe of \$3, offered by a passenger on a Japanese liner in the harbour, with the view of having his luggage passed without examination.

The evidence for the prosecution, brought forward by Inspector Gordon, was to the effect that the defendant was offered this sum for the consideration mentioned, and was seen to accept the money. Defendant's story was that while the owner of the luggage was handing down to move it, so facilitate examination, three one-dollar notes fell out of his breast pocket. Defendant picked them up, and was in the act of handing them to the owner when he was pounced on by an Indian police sergeant and taken, along with the passenger, to the Central Police Station, where he was charged with accepting a bribe.

Mr. Grist contended that an essential element of bribery was absent in that there was nothing excisable found in the boxes of the man who was said to have offered the bribe. It might be that the defendant had accepted the money, to hurry up and pass the luggage, but that was only "cumshu," and was not illegal. It might be a contravention of rules and regulations laid down by the revenue authorities for the guidance of their employees, but by no stretch could it be termed a violation of the law, and therefore the defendant could not be convicted in a criminal court. A conviction in these circumstances was not possible unless there was something dutiable in the boxes.

Mr. Wood—Can you cite me any authorities to that effect?

Mr. Grist—Not off-hand; but I know that it is not possible.

Mr. Wood said he would look into the point, and adjourned the case till Thursday next.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

SPORT.

GOLF.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB LADIES' BOGEY COMPETITION.

The results of the Ladies' Bogey Competition, played over the relief course at Fanling on Tuesday and Wednesday, are as under:—

Mrs. Moore, 4 up.
Mrs. Flemming, 4 up.
Mrs. Hancock, 3 up.
Mrs. McKenny, 2 up.
Miss Robertson, 1 up.
Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Cary, Miss Rodger, Miss Wilkinson, and Mrs. Winslow, all square.

HOCKEY.

U.S. LEAGUE.

VOLUNTEER "A" v. R.E.

The following will represent the Volunteers in Whites to-day at Happy Valley at 4.45 p.m.:—E. W. Hamilton, R. A. O. North, F. W. S. Evans, G. H. Piercy, C. B. Johnson, F. A. Redmond, B. O. Hutchinson, E. J. R. Mitchell, K. Brayshaw (Capt.), A. D. Ball and G. Miskin.

RIFLE LEAGUE.

The following will represent the Volunteer Team against the Navy:—C. S. M. Duncan, Sergt. Haines, Sergt. M. Manuk, Corpl. Martin, Gunner Green, Gunner Labrum, Private Evans, Gunner Sorby. Reserves:—Edmunds and E. Wilkin.

The match will take place at Stonecut's Range on Saturday, 27th instant. Launch leaves Blake Pier at 1.45 p.m. The Volunteer Team must be in uniform.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 20th January is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate for 3 weeks
This Year	\$12,641	\$37,589
Last Year	11,300	32,886
Increase	2,341	4,703

He had made dupes not only all over England but in Brazil, the Canaries, the West Coast of Africa, Malay Peninsula, and China, so it was related of Harry C. May, sent to prison for nine months at Birmingham. Advertising widely as the Universal Traders, he had sent broadsheet elaborate catalogues and secured payment in advance for orders which he never executed.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHIP'S STORES.

The question of the responsibility for ship's stores was raised in a prosecution before Mr. Melbourne yesterday. The defendant, the Chinese No. 1 saloon boy on board the s.s. *Monteagle*, was charged with being in illegal possession of 9 Winchester rifles, 8 Mauser pistols, and 1,500 rounds of ammunition.

Evidence was given to the effect that the rifles, pistols and ammunition were found in the ship's storeroom by the police, and, as defendant was in possession of the key of the room at the time, he was arrested on a charge of illegal possession.

Defendant, examined by Mr. F. X. d'Almada, solicitor, admitted that he was in possession of the key of the storeroom on the day of the search, but stated that he had not travelled on the ship on its voyage to Hongkong, having been off duty ill, and only rejoined her three days before. He consequently did not know what was in the storeroom. He admitted that the No. 1 saloon boy was held responsible for the contents of the storeroom, in ordinary circumstances.

Captain Hainey, commander of the *Monteagle*, said the defendant had been off ill during the last voyage of the ship and the No. 2 saloon boy acted as substitute for No. 1. The storeroom was not under lock and key all the time of the voyage, but was frequently open for the issue and receipt of materials.

His Worship—Who is responsible for the contents of the store? The stewards are responsible.

If the defendant or anyone else took over the key would it be his duty to go through the store and see what it contains?—I quite suppose it would be his duty, but I don't know that he would take sufficient interest to do that.

His Worship discharged the defendant and ordered the arms and ammunition to be confiscated.

BURNS' ANNIVERSARY.

HONGKONG SCOTS DO HONOUR TO NATIONAL BARD.

In a truly "Hielan'" setting the members of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society maintained the memory of Burns, Scotland's immortal bard, at the Hongkong Hotel last evening, when, on the anniversary of the poet's birth, a Burns' dinner took place. The large dining hall had been lavishly treated with decorations, in which the plaid and claymore figured prominently, while the wearing of the national costume by many of the guests, the singing of Scotch songs, the "skirlin'" of the bagpipes, and the numerous Scotticisms bandied about by the diners, created a scene which would not have failed to inspire the great Scotch poet to happy verse. Mr. A. G. Gordon (President of the St. Andrew's Society) was in the chair, and he was supported by, among others:—Messrs. R. Shewan, Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, R. M. Dyer, T. F. Hough, Donald Macdonald, R. Sutherland, A. O. Lang, Dr. Forsyth, W. C. Jack, M. A. Murray, J. Wallace, J. Reid and R. Anderson.

THE TOAST LIST.

The President said the gathering was the outcome of a strong expression of feeling on the part of members of the St. Andrew's Society that they should not allow the anniversary of Robert Burns to pass unobserved. It was therefore decided to have a "quiet meeting" among themselves, and with plain fare. The present was the day of small nationalities, and what Scotland lacked in quantity she had in quality (Applause). There was no true Scotsman who would refuse to have a care for his fellowman to-day. Someone who had written to the *Daily Press* saying he would be willing to give \$10 to the local war funds for a sight of their \$2 dinner should have been with them that night. He would see no hungry faces there; in fact he would see just the opposite; they looked anything but like those who had partaken of a cheap dinner. There was not a true Scotsman who would refuse to meet with his fellow-countrymen and talk over "Auld Lang Syne," especially when he was exiled, as they were, far from Caledonia's stern and wild shores. The President then asked Mr. Shewan to propose the "Immortal Memory of Burns."

THE "IMMORTAL MEMORY."

Mr. Robert Shewan proposed the "Immortal Memory." In doing so he said that it was 158 years ago that day since a mighty mother brought forth a mighty son. The word "immortal" was a big one, but it was not too big to use in describing Burns. After a humorous allusion to the similarity of Burns to several local gentlemen, the speaker went on to refer to the great love Burns had for his fellow-men, saying all classes had a place in that great heart, even from the small beast of the field to the "wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower." As well as being a great poet Burns was a great preacher, and a bit of a socialist, as was demonstrated by his great poem in which he forecasted the time when "man to man the world o'er shall brethren be for a' that." Burns knew the joys of conviviality, and their gathering there that evening was fully in keeping with his own ideas. His poems on conviviality alone would have made him immortal. With regard to one of his poems one great critic had said that the words were probably the finest words that had ever been written. No man could have deserved greater praise. Speaking of Burns' great poem, "Mary Morrison," the speaker said that that poem recalled to many of them love's young dream, and made them all the more eager to sing their song of praise. After referring to the praise bestowed on Longfellow, the speaker said that England could boast of her Shakespeare and her Milton, but Scotland was still Scotland yet, and would be so as long as her children were nurtured and brought up on the Psalms of David and the songs of Burns. (Loud applause.)

Replying to the toast of "the Visitors," the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn said he was more than three-quarters Scotch (loud applause) and these three-quarters were Ayrshire, the land of the "Immortal Robert Burns." He did not know what made a great man, but he thought one of the first things was that he should have a message to deliver. Robert Burns was a really great man (applause) and a great man must be inspired. One aspect of Burns was

that he was an intense patriot. He had written "tyrants fall at every blow"; and he (Mr. Severn) would like to have heard his withering scorn of our foes to-day. (Applause.) Burns was the Kipling of his day. Mr. Severn concluded by asking the company to drink to "The Chief," a toast, which was received with great enthusiasm.

Mr. R. Sutherland, who was the next speaker, gave some very interesting examples of Scottish humour, saying that the works of Scottish humorists bound them together in the great bonds of fellowship.

During the evening a collection was taken on behalf of the War Charities, when a sum of \$1,012.10 was realised. The bill of fare was as follows:—

BILL OF FARE.

"Some hae meat and canna eat,
An' some wad eat that want it.
But we hae meat an' we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit."
Some o' the Things We'll Hae.
Soup.
Cockie-Leekie.
Fish.
Flet Fish wi' Tartare Sauce.
An' a Dram.
Haggis w' a' the Honours.
"Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race!"
Sic a grand night we're haein',
We'll hae anither mouthfu'."
Joint.
Gigots o' Mutton Roastit.
Peas.
Bashed Neeps, an' ither Orra Vegetables.
Laird Cuts o' Beef Roastit.
Tatties, biled and clampit.
Anither Dram.
Entree.
Stoved Hens.
Hech! Anither Tastin'.
Dessert an' Sides.
Apple Tairt an' Cream.
Shortbread.
Ma certie, we'll hae anither Dram.
Rebbucks, green an' mitey.
Wines.
Strong Yill. Barley Bree frae weel
Kent Scottish Vineyards.
We're no' that fou.
An' we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet.
For Teetotal Folk an' alike, there's
Claret (which some folk ca' "Soordook")
Cuddle ma' Dearie, Skeichan, Treacle
Yill, an' ither Drinks o' that ilk, New
Maskit, Tea, etc.

TURKISH OUTRAGES IN ARABIA.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Pioneer*, in the course of a letter, dated December 15th, says: According to the *Alkhilab*, the official Sherifian organ published at Mecca, the Turks behaved most disgracefully at Attaiif. As soon as the town was besieged, they destroyed the houses of the family of the Grand Sherif. They then entered private houses on a plea of searching for provisions and took all money and jewels they could lay their hands on. Every family had to pay a daily tax of from three to twenty okeas of cereals besides monthly subsidies. When the price of wheat rose to two dollars the oke, they confiscated all they could find and flogged the people to make them say what they possessed. They sent the Cadi of Taif and Mufti of Hedjaz and many ulema to prison and placed sixty of the notables in a position where they formed targets for the besiegers' guns, whilst one prominent resident was flogged three times in one day until he was covered with blood and finally died under the lash. The Turks told their troops that they would be allowed to assault all women as soon as reinforcements arrived and in fact some of the women suffered considerably before the town capitulated.

THE LATIN TEST.

SHOULD IT BE COMPULSORY FOR DOCTORS?

The desirability of the compulsory inclusion of Latin in the preliminary examination in general knowledge was discussed by the General Medical Council on December 2nd.

The Education Committee pointed out that since 1902, the University of London had not called for Latin as an essential element in its matriculation examination, and that this course had since been followed by other Universities. The committee thought the matter should be discussed and they submitted alterations in the regulations in regard to the registration of medical and dental students, allowing other languages as an alternative to Latin if desired.

Sir John Moore denied that Latin was a dead language. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that many highly-educated women were never taught Latin.

One member stated that it had been said there was no pearl rising to a doctor or his patients because he did not know Latin.

Eventually the altered regulations were referred back.

It is said in London that the Kaiser in the course of a private conversation let out that he feared the German line would eventually give way in the West.

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MOSQUITO NETS AND BLANKETS.
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Cheong Tai.

Nam Hing Loong.

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Ty Sing.

Sang Tai.

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Kwan Tye.

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IN

AXMINSTER, WILTON AND
ART CARPETS.

THE WAR.

THE NAVAL FIGHT: GERMAN SQUADRON THOROUGHLY DESTROYED.

SPEECH BY MR. BONAR LAW:
EFFECTIVE CRITICISM OF "PEACE WITHOUT VICTORY."

GERMANS ABANDON DANUBE POSITION.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

DESTRUCTIVE FRENCH ARTILLERY.

LONDON, January 25th.

A French communiqué states:—We carried on a destructive artillery fire against the enemy in the region of Montinson St. Owent, and north-east of Hill 304.

There has been an appreciably violent artillery struggle in the sector at Caucieres Wood.

EARLIER CABLES.

ACTIVITY ON BRITISH FRONT.

GOOD AEROPLANE WORK.

LONDON, January 25th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy attempted a raid south-westward of Loos, but was easily beaten off, leaving a number of dead and wounded.

We drove back a party to the south of Halluin, and raided trenches south-east of Ypres. We also bombarded trenches to the south-east of Souchez, with good results.

During some air-fighting, six German aeroplanes were destroyed, and three were driven down in a damaged condition. One of ours was brought down and two are missing.

TRIALS OF STRENGTH.

SEVENTY BRITISH RAIDS.

PARIS, January 23rd.

A military expert draws attention to the fact that the adversaries on the Western front are continually testing their respective strengths along the whole line, especially in the regions of the former battles of the Somme, Meuse, Champagne and Argonne. The other fronts, in the Vosges, Woëvre and the Aisne, are also waking up.

The writer points out that similar trials of strength preceded the battle of the Somme.

The British executed no fewer than seventy raids from Ypres to the Somme between June 24th and July 1st, and the present situation is greatly similar thereto.

FRENCH AERIAL SUCCESSES.

PARIS, January 24th.

A communiqué states:—We carried out several successful *coupes de main* at night to the south of Chilly, on the Somme, and near Legeville, in Woëvre.

Four enemy aeroplanes were brought down, including Lieutenant Guynemer's twenty-sixth.

Sixteen British naval aeroplanes bombed blast furnaces in the Burbach basin at Sarre, apparently doing considerable damage.

GERMAN SET-BACK.

FRENCH INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES.

PARIS, January 24th.

The correspondent of *La Liberté*, at Verdun, says that the German effort north of Caucieres wood was not merely a raid, but a strong attack by three regiments on a front of a kilometre, following an intense all-day bombardment. Our 75's murderous precision checked and rolled back the assailants in disorder.

The second attack was preceded by liquid fire, and was equally costly to the Germans. One Company alone lost forty-one.

The Balkans.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN ADMISSION.

AMSTERDAM, January 24th.

A German communiqué says:—We have abandoned the north bank of the Danube and the delta to the north of Tulcea.

EARLIER CABLES.

IN ROMANIA.

LONDON, January 24th.

A wireless Russian official message says:—We surprised, attacked and destroyed Bulgarians crossing the Georgief branch of the Danube and took 337 prisoners.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN CLAIMS.

LONDON, January 24th.

A German wireless official message says:—Considerable territory has been arrested from the Russians on both sides of the An River, and upwards of 1,500 prisoners have been taken.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN ATTACK.

RUSSIANS PUSHED BACK.

LONDON, January 24th.

A wireless Russian official message says:—After strong artillery fighting, the Germans attacked between the Tauri swamp and the River An, to the east of Kalnein, and pushed us back a mile and a half to the north. Fighting continues.

ARTILLERY DUEL NEAR RIGA.

LONDON, January 24th.

A Berlin official message says:—The artillery duel has revived south-west of Riga.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE NAVAL FIGHT.

THE ADVENTURES OF "V 69."

YMUIDEN, January 24th.

The survivors of *V 69* say that a flotilla of 11 vessels left a German port on Monday afternoon and at 3 o'clock yesterday morning discovered the British abeam.

At long range they opened fire. The British marksmanship was most accurate, and *V 69* was soon hit. She escaped marvelously, for she was faced by two British squadrons of four to six big ships each. There must have been treachery, because every precaution had been taken to avoid an encounter. As the steering and compass were destroyed the vessel was steered by the stars and the screws. They were making for the mouth of the Ems river, but sighted four British destroyers when off Ymuiden, so made for that port. The main action was fought 30 miles off Zeebrugge. *V 69* escaped owing to her being the rear-guard of the flotilla. They did not know the fate of the other vessels, but they must have suffered badly.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

LONDON, January 24th.

A German official message, received by wireless, states:—Our torpedo boats encountered the English at Hoofden. We sank one destroyer and observed another by aeroplane to be in a sinking condition. One of our torpedo boats, damaged and rendered unseaworthy, ran into Ymuiden.

All the other ships returned. There were slight losses.

BATTERED ENEMY CRAFT.

A message from Ymuiden states that when the *V 69* arrived there, towed by three Dutch tugs, eight dead members of the crew were frozen to the deck, and the use of axes was necessary to detach them.

The torpedo tubes were knocked sideways, while the signal tower, the searchlight, the bridge and one funnel were destroyed. The damage was due to gunfire, and also to ramming by a British boat, deeply denting the side of the *V 69*. Despite many degrees of frost, some of the crew were stripped to the waist, washing off the battle-stains. It is stated that only eighty out of a crew of 160 remain.

Conspicuous in the rigging, where it was frozen hard, was a man's arm, which had been blown off.

A number of the crew jumped overboard and were drowned. The Commander had both legs shot off. He has died in Ymuiden Hospital. Four officers were killed.

The battered remnants of the German "High Sea Forces," constituting the pirates' lair at Zeebrugge, are now limping to neutral ports or are trying to lurk along the coasts to Germany.

The whole story was one of swift and overwhelming disaster, when the British swooped down destroying the squadron quickly and thoroughly.

A German seaman stated that the squadron had to dash out of Zeebrugge or be frozen in.

LATEST CABLES.

SINKINGS.

MORE HUNGARIAN CRUELTY.

LONDON, January 25th.

Three Fleetwood trawlers were sunk by the gunfire of a German submarine. The crews landed after several hours' exposure in small boats, scantily clad, in bitterly cold weather.

EARLIER CABLES.

ANOTHER BRITISH CAPTAIN TAKEN PRISONER.

LONDON, January 23rd.

The following sinkings are reported:—*Port Nicholson*, *Matina*, *Mohacsfeld*, *Baron Schepfl*, *Carlyle*, and *Londara* (British), *Kangata Maru* (Japanese), *Jotunspelt* (Norwegian), *Kamma* (Swedish), a Danish schooner and a British trawler.

The Captain of the *Mohacsfeld* has been taken prisoner, two of the *Mohacsfeld's* crew have been lost, and four of the *Kamma's* crew are missing.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH MAN-POWER.

CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF ARMY AND AGRICULTURE.

LONDON, January 24th.

Lord Derby, Secretary of State for War, and Mr. E. E. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture, state that the urgent military situation requires the taking of men under 25 from even an industry so essential as agriculture. On the other hand, agriculture asks to retain all its skilled labour. The conflicting claims are only reconcilable if the soldier and the farmer each yields something. Instead of the 60,000 offered by the military tribunals as not essential, only 30,000 will be called up without the War Cabinet's sanction. The military authorities have arranged substitutes. These will include a proportion of men skilled in the management of horses, also the return from the colours of men accustomed to the steam cultivator. They will also send other men to assist in the ploughing and sowing, thus assuring a volume of labour exceeding that available during the past eight months.

JAPANESE POLITICAL TROUBLES.

TOKIO, January 24th.

The political crisis is purely due to domestic controversies on the defeat of the Government in the Diet. Dissolution is expected.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S SPEECH.

EFFECTIVE REPLY BY MR. BONAR LAW.

LONDON, January 24th.

Mr. Bonar Law, speaking at Bristol, replying to President Wilson's speech, declared:—"The Germans' so-called peace offer has received from the Allies the only possible reply. We believe the essence of this conflict is a question which is as old as time, namely, the difference between right and wrong. We know that this is a war of naked aggression; that the crimes which have accompanied the war, and which have been unknown in the world for centuries, are small compared with the initial crime of plunging the world into war by cold-blooded calculation—because those responsible thought it would pay."

Continuing, Mr. Bonar Law said our aim coincided with President Wilson's effort to secure the present and future peace of the world. It was not right to regard President Wilson's effort to induce the Senate to take the necessary steps, in regard to forming a League of Nations as altogether Utopian, but the subject was not an abstract question for the future, but a question of life and death now.

Proceeding, Mr. Bonar Law dwelt on the past efforts to render war impossible, or at least to mitigate its horrors, and showed that Germany had, in a wholesale manner, violated convention and pledges in this matter. No neutral power was able to stop that; no neutral power had, indeed, protested; so we must take other means to secure the peace of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. Bonar Law said:—"We rejected the German negotiations offer because peace now would mean a peace based on a German victory and leave her military machine unbroken with a halo of success surrounding it. The controllers of that machine would renew preparations for war, choosing a convenient time to begin. What President Wilson is longing for we are fighting for, our men-folk are risking their lives for, and we mean to secure it." (Cheers.)

GERMAN COMMENTS.

AMSTERDAM, January 24th.

The *Cologne Gazette* says, it cannot see how the world would be brought nearer peace by President Wilson's speech, unless America attempts to practise what she preaches.

The *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung* says:—"Peace without victory means that the Central Powers will be deprived of their gains. Access to the sea for every great nation means that Germany must retain Belgium. What the Dardanelles means to Russia the English channel means to Germany."

ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF SPANISH PREMIER.

LONDON, January 25th.

An attempt has been made on the life of the Premier, Senor Romanones, while travelling from Seville to Madrid. The express ran over two sleepers which had been placed on the rails. Fortunately the train was not derailed.

RE-OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

A WAR PROGRAMME.

LONDON, January 24th.

The Press Bureau announces that on the occasion of the re-opening of Parliament, as the country is at war, the King and Queen and their suite will arrive in plain carriages, and will be attended, besides the Household Cavalry, by an Imperial escort of officers of overseas and Indian forces.

The procession within the House will be of a Naval and Military character.

INDISCREET SPANISH OFFICER.

MADRID, January 24th.

Major Francisco, a member of the Spanish General Staff, is to be court-martialled.

In the course of a speech at a dinner given by the German Colony at Barcelona, he attacked the Allies and boasted the triumph of the Central Powers.

WAR ECONOMY.

ALCOHOL SUPPLY TO BE RESTRICTED.

LONDON, January 24th.

The Food Controller has decided, with a view to augmenting the supply of barley and sugar for purposes of food, and also economising transport labour and fuel, that the beer output, from April 1st, will be 70 per cent. of the output for the current financial year. The Government will correspondingly restrict the release of wines and spirits in bond.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE LONDON EXPLOSION. THOUSAND HOMELESS PEOPLE.

LONDON, January 23rd.

So far, forty-six bodies, victims in the explosion, have been recovered. Twenty-four people have died in hospital, one hundred and twenty are seriously injured, and a hundred are slightly injured.

There are a thousand homeless people, and the damage is estimated at £2,000,000.

THE SUMATRA RISING.

WORK OF GERMAN MISSIONARIES.

LONDON, January 23rd.

According to an Amsterdam message the *Telegraf* correspondent at Weltevreden says the Dutch East Indies newspapers have issued a warning against the interference of German missionaries in Government affairs, which was partly the cause of the recent rising in the Batak region of Sumatra.

DANISH RESTRICTION REMOVED.

LONDON, January 23rd.

It is officially announced that the restriction on the import of tea into Denmark, announced on September 11th, has been cancelled.

IMPRISONED AMERICANS.

ANGER AGAINST GERMANY.

WASHINGTON, January 23rd.

Mr. Gerard, American Ambassador in Berlin, has cabled that the *Yaroslavl* has reached Swinemünde with 459 of the crews of ships she has sunk, including 103 neutrals. The message says that Mr. Gerard is unable to secure a satisfactory statement concerning the imprisonment of Americans among the other neutrals. Irritation is growing in America in consequence.

PEACE PROPOSALS.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S VIEWS.

LONDON, January 23rd.

President Wilson, in his speech before the Senate, said that no covenant of operative peace that did not include the peoples of the New World can suffice to keep the future safe against war, yet the only peace which American peoples could join in guaranteeing must satisfy the principles of American Governments. Mere agreements do not make peace secure. It would be absolutely necessary to create a force as a guarantor of the permanency of the settlement, so much greater than the force of any nation now engaged or any alliance formed or projected, that no nation or probable combination could withstand it. Peace must be made secure by the organised major force of mankind.

A BRITISH VIEW.

LONDON, January 24th.

The Solicitor General, Mr. Gordon Hewart, K.C., at Manchester, referring to the Allies' refusal of the insolent German peace-offering, asked:—"Did any man with sense and spirit on this side of the water, or on any side of any water, imagine it prudent or practicable, or even tolerable, to contemplate a future wherein presumptuous pride of unscrupulous brutality was not defeated and overthrown? We would win for Europe and humanity the countless blessings of an enduring peace."

PRESS OPINIONS.

LONDON, January 24th.

The *Daily Telegraph* deprecates the querulous comment on President Wilson and points out that the President has, for the first time, made clear his willingness to support the projected League of Peace with force of arms if necessary, thus demonstrating a vital change in the traditions and practice of the United States. The journal says that, broadly speaking, the conditions of the co-operative peace, stipulated by President Wilson, favour the Allies' cause, but the President is merely using catchwords when he talks of the freedom of the seas. His reference to peace without victory is absolutely bewildering in view of the Germans' crimes.

The *Morning Post* concludes a criticism of President Wilson, as follows:—"After listening with greatest interest to President Wilson's instructive essay on the art of reconstructing the world, we respectfully beg leave to continue the war."

HONGKONG MAILS.

INTERCEPTED BY THE ENEMY.

LONDON, January 25th.

The Post Office notices that letters for China, Japan and Hongkong which reached London on January 7th and 8th, and for Persia on January 6th and 8th, were aboard the intercepted *Ingeborg*, which was on a voyage from the United Kingdom to Sweden.

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

INDIAN APPOINTMENTS APPROVED.

LONDON, January 23rd.

The *Westminster Gazette* says that nothing could be more satisfactory than the selection of Indian representatives for the Imperial War Conference. Sir James Meston is certainly one of the very ablest Indian administrators, and his recent speech at the Indian National Congress shows that he sympathises with Indian ideals and aspirations. Sir Satyendra Sinha has every qualification for being considered a thoroughly representative Indian, whose selection will be universally popular, and the Maharajah of Bikanir is an equally good example of the ruling chiefs who have rendered very great service in many ways in the war.

LONDON, January 23rd.

A movement is on foot in the City to extend a civic welcome to representatives of the Dominions and India attending the forthcoming War Conference. It is suggested to take the form of a reception and the presentation of the Freedom of the City.

The date of the first meeting of the special War Cabinet has not yet been decided upon, but it seems likely that it cannot occur before the middle of March.

The *Times* says that Sir Satyendra Sinha is a great man, of great attainments and calm and balanced judgment. He enjoys the confidence of the people of Bengal, to whom his selection is a special compliment. The Maharajah of Bikanir has rendered invaluable services during the war. Sir James Meston is one of the most distinguished Indian civil servants, and has the reputation of enjoying in an exceptional degree the esteem of the people of North India. He is an exceedingly sympathetic administrator.

THE KING'S A.D.C.s.

LONDON, January 25th.

General Sir Herbert Plumer, General Sir Archibald Hunter and General Sir William Robertson have been appointed *Aides-de-Camp* to His Majesty the King.

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

STRIKING SPEECH BY LORD RONALDSHAY.

LONDON, January 22nd.

Presiding at a lecture given by Lady Katherine Stuart, under the auspices of the East India Association, Lord Ronaldsday agreed that the inequality of the Englishman was an obstacle to mutual understanding and sympathy between the two races. At least an equal obstacle were the ancient social customs, traditions, and strict rules of caste. For the removal of these difficulties they must look to time and sympathy. Very much could be done by determined goodwill on both sides. He knew from his own pleasant experience the lengths that high-caste Indians were prepared to go in an endeavour to stretch out the hand of friendship and hospitality. Goodwill was being aided by other factors, for to-day, under Lord Morley's reform, Indians were now working side by side with Englishmen in the highest positions in the Government, to the great advantage of both. The sharing of common responsibilities and burdens helped them to understand one another. The doubts of cautious Englishmen had been dispelled by experience, and Indians had learned that the motives actuating Englishmen were not a mere sordid desire to grasp and hold place and power. There might be room for legitimate differences of opinion regarding the pace of the advance, but there could not be any whatsoever on the point that we should proceed steadily and consecutiously with the policy we had deliberately adopted, of associating the best intellect and ability of India in the task of governing. Those most anxious for ordered progress on these lines most regretted the adoption, by a small section of the populace, of methods of terrorism, for they best realised how serious a drag those methods imposed on the rate of progress. Another helpful factor was the European conflagration, for comradeship in the battlefield was infinitely more potent in its effects than any obstacle to co-operation, or any social custom or tradition.

Mirza Abbas Ali Baig (member of the Council of India) said that Lord Ronaldsday's speech would dispel some, at least, of the misconceptions and misunderstandings which had gathered round long strings of quotations in Bengali papers from his past speeches and writings. He would go to Bengal with a clean slate, apart from some manifest prepossessions in favour of India.

RUSSIAN TIDE RISING.

AT FLOOD IN APRIL.

INTERVIEW WITH STANLEY WASHBURN.

Mr. Stanley Washburn, who for the last two years has been the correspondent of the London Times with the Russian army, is paying a visit to Japan. He has enjoyed unusual opportunities for seeing the eastern war, for he has been permitted to go where he pleased, being the only journalist to enjoy such a privilege. He has been over the entire Russian front.

In an interview with a representative of the Japan Advertiser, he said:— "There will be no peace for Russia until Germany is defeated, just as there will be no peace for England or France. It is no longer a war between the Russian Government and the German Government, but slowly the war has become a struggle between the Russian people and the Germans. And the Russian people will not make peace. There is a peace party in Russia—but to illustrate this party's position in Russia, Mr. Washburn draws on his own rich fund of experiences.

"Everything but the soldiers." "During Brusiloff's drive last summer," he says, "the Fifth Siberian Army Corps came back into reserve at Lutsk after being pretty badly dented in the fighting east of Kovel. The corps had lost heavily, and when I asked the general at Lutsk to let me visit his troops and see how they had come through, he told me he was embarrassed to allow my request. He explained that in addition to the losses before Kovel, one division had been sent to Riga, another to another part of the line, and about all he had left was a staff and headquarters. He had all the apparatus for carrying on a campaign except the soldiers.

"That's about the position of the pro-German party in Russia now. They have leaders, a staff, headquarters, and a plan of campaign—all they lack is the soldiers. They find no backing among the Russian people.

"The Russian people are simple, elemental—not like the more volatile, responsive peoples of other warring countries. It has taken them a long time to wake to the war, and they have risen to the situation slowly—like the tide. Russia will not reach the zenith of her power until next April. When the first Russian forces were sent to the front, there were many troops who did not know whom they were going to fight. But slowly that knowledge and the hatred of the Germans has come to all the nation, clear to the Pacific Ocean. When a soldier has been wounded he has gone back to his village and told his little circle about the Germans and the way they made war. When a man has been killed, his people in his village, perhaps, have mourned him and cursed the Germans. Now the whole nation is in arms against the Germans and will have no peace with them until they are beaten.

"Nothing to offer Russia." "What has Germany to offer Russia to make peace, not only now but in any future act of proposals? She has declared the independence of Poland, and so cannot give the Polish provinces to Russia. Galicia belongs to Austria, Hungary and Constantinople to Turkey, and the Kaiser cannot use these for bribing Russia.

"Germany might have had peace with Russia long ago if she had played the game of war like the Japanese did twelve years ago. But in her methods of warfare she made the big mistake. The use of poison gas by the Germans has done much to make Russia determined to defeat Germany. In the German the Russian soldier has found a foe that does not play the game, and he will tolerate no agreement with such a foe.

"Have British chances for peace." "I hold that war is fought to gain peace—peace on your own terms, and any act that puts that consummation further away is a blunder. By the many acts that have steeled their enemies against them the Germans have made any sort of an agreement with these peoples more and more remote, and this fact has made every act of brutality, every decoration of what their enemies have held sacred, a terrible military blunder.

"The Russian retreat through Poland in 1915 was tragic. I have seen on the Narvich above Warsaw, the Russian soldiers go to the front, the horses driven until their mouths dripped with blood. When they arrived the Russian batteries would reply to the steady German hammering for perhaps twenty-five minutes, and then there would be an hour of silence, while the steady, perfect, hammering of the big German guns went on. I have seen the Russian batteries limbered and sent back without firing a shot, because they had no ammunition.

"Russia's inferiority in guns." "That campaign was heart-breaking, but this year we have had something different. This last summer has been exhilarating. But even Brusiloff's drive was made in the face of terrible superiority of the Austro-German artillery. All last summer, I did not see a Russian gun larger than six-inch; the Germans were well-supplied, with guns up to eleven inches.

"There are three big factors to be taken into consideration when planning an offensive—time, materials and men. The Russian, if they were to co-operate with their allies, had no time to wait; they were at a disadvantage in regard to materials, so they had to make their offensive and pay in men. The Russian offensive was not cheap, but at the net ineffective crowded among the enemy was greater than the Russian losses.

"I have often been asked why Brusiloff's offensive stopped where it did; why it fell short of Lemberg and Kovel. I can answer that best by telling conditions on one section of the front. When the offensive began on June 5th, the

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE RUMANIAN CAMPAIGN.

OUR ALLIES AGAINST HEAVY ODDS.

An "Independence" member of the Roumanian front has given a long interview to the correspondent of the *Kepessza*, explaining from the military point of view "why the Roumanians have suffered defeat." This member, who took part in the operations under Falkenhayn and was one of the first to enter Craiova, declares that after the battle of Brasso it was clear the Roumanians stood no chance even at those points where they were equal in numbers to their opponents.

As a matter of fact, at most points they had to face greatly superior artillery and superior numbers as well. With regard to the artillery, nowhere has the number of heavy guns employed by the Austro-Hungarian and German forces been so great as it has been on this particular front. The artilleryman declares that it was these guns that won the battles and made it possible for the army to advance so rapidly, particularly as they were brought up with extraordinary rapidity after the advancing army.

But in order to discover the main reason of the Roumanian failure one must go deeper than this. The fact is that the tough and seasoned German, Austrian, or Hungarian soldier, after his long experience of war, is a bit of a general himself by now, he is accustomed to discipline at home, and he is led by trained officers and non-commissioned officers, the latter representing the cream of the industrial classes. The Roumanian peasant is of different type altogether. He deeply loves his native country and is devoted to his duty as a soldier, but as a rule, he is illiterate, and even many of the non-commissioned officers to whom he looks for guidance have no idea of what a map is for. Most of the Roumanian soldiers in time of peace are farm labourers, and they have never been subjected to any kind of discipline. In Roumania practically there are but two classes—the peasantry and the boys or big landowners. The latter, it is true, are highly intelligent and make excellent officers, but they are without the support of middle-class reserve officers, such as constitute 75 per cent. of the total number of officers in our Army.

It is easy to see, therefore, that we are superior to the Roumanians in manpower. On the Western front the position is very different. There the English and French are in every way a match for the Germans. For the men there are of the same build, of the same strength, and of the same mental capacity and training. Look at Serbia, a smaller country than Roumania, but one on a much higher level of culture, and one which produces fighters as good as any who have taken part in this war. But then Serbia is free and democratic and its population does not like that of Roumania, consisting of nobles and serfs. The great free, democratic nations of the West, France and England, although they were not prepared for the war, stood their ground for more than two years against the most formidable military strength history has ever known, and within a very brief lapse of time they came to be as formidable as the Germans themselves.

Roumania has not had an adequate supply of munitions and artillery from the very beginning of the war, and this we knew directly we fought the first battle against them around Brasso. As soon as this was clear we were at an immense advantage, for the knowledge that no barrage fire could stop our columns inspired the men with zeal for the advance.—*Morning Post*.

Russian army under General Sichevbat, the army that made the advances to the direction of Lemberg, had opposed to it six Austrian divisions and one German division. Three months later on this front there were three Austrian divisions, two Turkish divisions and parts of nine German divisions. In addition, there was the Austro-German superiority in artillery.

"If the Russians had had the guns, last summer's drive would have carried them to the Vistula."

Mackensen's forces in Roumania will not reach Odessa, Mr. Washburn believes. He believes that the Russo-Roumanian line will hold on the line of the River Pruth, if not further west than this stream, which marks the eastern boundary of Roumania. The country which lies between Mackensen and the great Russian port on the Black Sea is full of rivers, and many rivers, and lacking in roads. It will have to be crossed before the spring thaw comes, or it will become impassable for an army with heavy artillery. Besides, the Roumanians will have the advantage of interior communications, while the German line will be tremendously long and difficult. The Roumanian army is not done for, Mr. Washburn believes, and with time to recuperate should put into the field at least ten effective army corps.

GERMAN MAN-POWER SLIPPING. "It is becoming more and more evident that the Germans are finding it hard to supply the man-power demanded. The ingenuity with which they have shifted their forces, and created new units shows this.

"Even if Germany should get the peace she asks for now, on her own terms, she will be overwhelmingly defeated. Russia's losses are small compared with the loss the German nation, in its economic and intellectual life, has sustained. Germany is paying dearer for every death to-day than any other nation.

"The first line of the Germany army was 100 per cent. military efficiency, but zero in economic efficiency as far as their value in Germany's aggregate production was concerned. The men Germany is sending to the front now have been factors in the economic power of the Empire, and now Germany is spending that power on the battlefield."

SPIRIT OF THE NEW ARMY.

WINTER BATTLEFIELDS IN FRANCE.

[BY PHILIP GIBBS.]

An ice-cold rain has been falling to-day, and as I sat with some officers this morning discussing the state of the enemy's lines, and of our, the wind beat against the windows of an old chateau and howled through a roofless wing of the house, so that one's very spirit shivered at the walling. "Rotten for the men," said one of the officers, "and rotten for the roads again." The sky was leaden, and it was what the airman would call "a dud day" as far as observation goes. But our heavy guns were firing continuously—"keeping the Hunns unhappy," as our men say—and above the cry of the wind came these fierce shocks of noise with their tale of winter warfare. Though the infantry does not budge in the mud the guns go on with their work day and night. In his front lines beyond the old Fiers line the enemy is not more comfortable than we are. He sits in a line of linked-up shell-craters, without communication trenches, beyond the ruins within reach of our guns. There is no comfort in a position like that, nor safety, nor anything but misery and violence. He tries to dig, but our shell-fire stops his industry and blows his work to bits. Beyond, along the Bapaume line, he is digging and tunnelling and wiring with more chance of success, and hopes there will be a long respite before the British are at him again.

Our men are putting up a stiff defence against the inevitable evils of winter, and are not beaten by these hardships. In sleepless coats and trench-waders combinations they look like queer men, and the Puritan soldier, but do not bother about appearances, and go about this dirty job of war in the practical make-the-best-of-it way which is the essential character of the New Army men. It was in the heavy rains of November that they had to suffer most, and it was then that they had the chance of showing all the grit that was in them—and showed it. Lancashire men and killed Scots and Irish lads and Welshmen squared their jaws and plunged into a sea of mud, and said in different dialects and styles of speech, "It's a bloody business, this war, but it's got to be done, so get on with it, boys."

And they stuck—sometimes too fast and too deep in shell-holes and soft ground. FINE ACTS OF COURAGE. The fighting spirit of these cold, wet men did not fail in critical hours, which overlook some of their last month, when the enemy made a heavy counter-attack and captured a broken down trench, after storms of shell-fire. Some of the Northumberland Fusiliers were in the neighbourhood, and resisted in a grim temper and "id many fine acts of courage. One man worked his machine-gun in the capture trench for thirty-six hours, and did great damage among German troops. Another man, badly bruised by shell splinters, sat in a crater just outside the trench for a day and a half in charge of a party of bombers, and kept up a constant fire on the enemy. These men were private soldiers and lance-corporals and sergeants acting on their own initiative. It was a sergeant with an Irish name who took command of a company and tried to dig a new trench to defend the position, and kept it at work, sure of the loyalty of every man, under bad weather was at its worst, and when the men were very near to exhaustion by cold and dampness.

Some days earlier last month there was savage fighting, in which individual British soldiers or small groups of them did not wait for leadership, but without officers, kept striking at the enemy. There was a splendid corporal in the Durham Light Infantry who showed himself to be a good captain of men when they were left without any other officer. He took command of the company and resisted a command-attack until absolutely surrounded. Most men might have been tempted to yield at that time, but not this corporal in command. "Break a way through, boys," he said. "Boys fought their way back to their own lines. It was the same with a private of the Durham, who held a post with a Lewis gun team until the enemy was all round them. A German officer with twenty men called on them to surrender. "No, bally fear," shouted the machine-gunner. He shot the officer, scattered the men with a burst of machine-gun fire, and came back with his weapon.

DARING PAID BELIEF.

The daring of these men of ours would be past belief if one did not know the amazing truth of it. There were two Argyll and Sutherland men who a few weeks ago hoisted themselves out of a shallow ditch and crawled out into No Man's Land. They wriggled their way through the mud in and out of shell-holes, round by dead bodies and broken sandbags and old timbers until they were within 100 yards of the German line. There they lay doggo and waited and watched. Presently a German officer came out with two men and passed within thirty yards of them. They shot these three Germans, and then were discovered by others and instantly attacked. They bolted back quicker than they had come, but reached our lines safely and satisfied with their day out. It was an Argyll and Sutherland sergeant who was first into Martinpuich with two lance-corporals and three men of the same regiment. That was on September 15th, which is ancient history now; but this exploit has not been told before, and ought to be told.

The village of Martinpuich I have described as I saw it before it was captured—a heap of sinister ruins as quiet as the death which had overtaken it.

Into this place went the Scottish sergeant and his five men to reconnoitre and find out if the enemy were still there. It is about as safe a thing as to go into a jungle frequented by tigers to see if they are at home. There was no shot fired, and the small party of six went on, until suddenly they heard voices. They stopped and listened. They had come to a line of dug-outs, and down below there were many Germans talking loudly, as though quarrelling and cursing. The Scots—these six men—dug two bombs in the entrance way of the tunnels. They burst with an explosive roar, which was followed by cries of terror. A few moments later sixty German soldiers rushed out with their hands up, and surrendered to the six. The Scots were embarrassed to know what to do with such a crowd, and after some deliberation the sergeant detached two of his men to conduct them to the edge of the village. Then he made further explorations, and came back an hour later, after a hot time under machine-gun fire, snipers' bullets, and shell-fire.

The stories of individual courage in this war will make the very virtue seem commonplace, though, as God knows, it is hard to be brave in the presence of hideous death. For sixty hours, which is nearly three days and nights, two private soldiers of the Durham Light Infantry worked under intense shell-fire as stretcher bearers, going out into the open again and again to bring in the wounded who lay about in the mud. These men were not fighting. They had no passion in them save the fire of self-sacrifice and charity. What they had was the noblest type of courage. And of another kind was that of a Scot, another Argyll and Sutherland man, who was a scout in a front-line trench at dawn, when a shell came and crashed into the entrance of a dug-out in which a machine-gun team lay asleep. The scout had the instinct of a goalkeeper, and it was a sudden call of instinct—knowing the sleeping men depended on his goalkeeping—which made him do the maddest, finest thing. He flung himself at the shell, seized the frightful thing in both hands, and hurled it over the parapet—all in 30 seconds of time. It was a "dud," and did not explode, but that was his luck, and not a lessening of his supreme act of faith.

BURIED TREASURE.

And now, talking of faith, I want to tell of a curious thing which has nothing to do with courage, or with British soldiers, but much to do with this war, which has made a great wide help of destruction across France and Belgium, over a country where many people had their houses and their homes. A few days ago a French civilian and his wife, accompanied by two or three French officers, came to Fricourt, which was captured on July 2nd. Fricourt is now on the edge of the Somme battlefields, far back now from the fighting lines. Of the village there remain only a few rubbish heaps, among the broken trenches, the old mine-craters, the shell-holes, and the litter of complete destruction. But the French civilian pointed to a pile of earth in all this turmoil and said, "There was my house. I am sure of it." The party started scraping up the earth and digging a foot or two down, here and there. Suddenly there was a cry of astonishment. "God be thanked! It is here! I have found it!" cried the Frenchman, and all hands were raised up as though in the presence of a miracle.

It was hardly less than that. The Frenchman and his wife had found Fr. 25,000, all the treasure of their life, six inches deep under soil that had been dug up by mine-craters, burrowed by high explosives, dug by German soldiers, trapped over by British soldiers, and tortured by every destructive net of war. Yet here in Fricourt, which exists no more, the Frenchman found the soil of his hearth-side undisturbed, and beneath it untouched, the money-box he had buried there. The news has spread. Another little party of French men and women came to Fricourt two days ago and have been sifting among the rubbish heaps and saying, "Perhaps after all we shall find something." And it is a pitiful thing to see them seeking for the dust of their houses, doubtful of the very place where they stood.

THE NEW AUSTRIAN EMPEROR.

The new Austrian Emperor has always been an unconventional sort of man, says a writer in the *Manchester Guardian*. On their honeymoon at the ancestral castle of Warthole, he and his bride frequently rubbed shoulders with the country folk as the local picture palace—incidentally supplying the owner with new films—and they entertained all the village officials at the castle. Once his wife lost a comb, and they stopped at a hairdresser's to buy one; and the Archduke just managed to scrape together one-and-sevenpence to pay for it. As they entered the shop, officers who were being shaved sprang to the salute, and upset the little adventure. When in Vienna, even in quite recent times, the Archduke was sometimes seen wheeling his children in a perambulator.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, 20th Jan.—11.30 a.m.—The West Point Building Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 11.45 a.m.—The Hongkong Central Estate, Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 12.30 p.m.—The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 12.15 p.m.—The Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 3 p.m.—Auction of Crown Land at Peking Waterfront. Saturday, 21st Feb.—11.30 a.m.—Union Waterboat Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 3 p.m.—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property at Sales Rooms, by Mr. Geo. F. Lamour. Tuesday, 10th Feb.—11 a.m.—The Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders. Tuesday, 13th Feb.—Noon—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

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Hongkong, 20th January, 1917.

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TENYO MARU	22,000 — 21 knots	TUES., 5th Mar.
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Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Liberia, Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

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For	On Week-Days	On Sundays & Holidays
Tai O ...	5.01 P.M.	—
Tai Po ...	10.00 A.M.	8.30 A.M.
Cheung Chow	2.00 P.M.	—
Shanghai, Siam and Siam	4.00 P.M.	—
Shanghai, Siam and Siam	4.30 P.M.	—
Canton Samah and Wuchow	7.30 A.M. 7.30 A.M. (Sundays & Holidays)	6.00 P.M.
Macao	7.15 A.M. 1.30 P.M.	9.00 A.M.
Hongkong	8.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Namtau and Sammei	8.00 P.M.	5.00 P.M.
Shanghai	10.00 A.M. 4.00 P.M.	9.00 A.M.

From Sheungwan Western Branch P.O.

For	On Week-Days	On Sundays & Holidays
Macao	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M.	8.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M.
Canton	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Tai Ping Tung	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Shok Ki	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Kowloon	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
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Kowloon	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.

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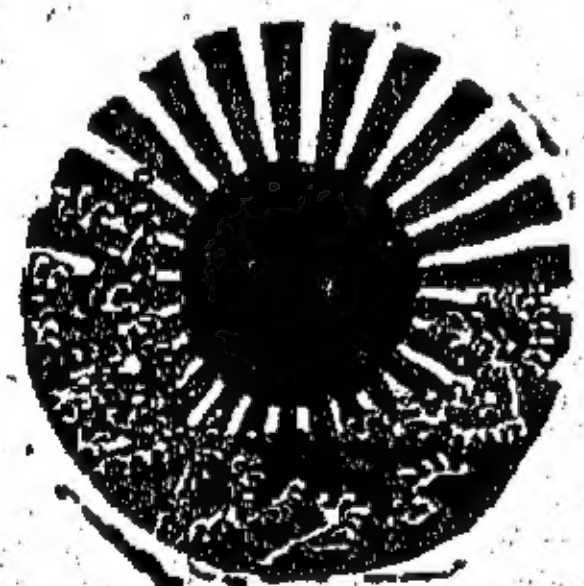
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Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	2/3 1/2
Bank Bill, at 60 days' sight	2/3 1/2
Bank Bill, at 90 days' sight	2/3 1/2
On New York.—	32 1/2
Bank Bill, on demand	32 1/2
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	32 1/2
On Hongkong.—	100
Telegraphic Transfer	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
On Shanghai.—	100
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